

Scholarly Activity: What, Why & How – an introduction

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Introduction

- Challenges
 - Yours not mine!
- What is Scholarly Activity?
- How can I help?



Some of your challenges...

- Availability of suitable learning resources?
 - For staff & student use
- Knowing why students choose to access your HE courses
 - e.g. socialisation, personalisation, small class, transition, part-time/flexible provision
- And understanding how those differences and similarities can affect your Teaching & learning, Assessment and Curriculum Design.
- What factors contribute to student success?
 - Support?
 - Actually teaching.....?
- What are the advantages of studying at your institution?



Some of your challenges..

- Does your environment challenge the “more able” students sufficiently?
 - How do you know?
- What are the learning needs of your students and in what ways can these be met to aid progression from level 3 programmes?
- Involvement/relationship with partners/consortia?
 - How do these differ between HEIs and colleges?
 - Are you aware?
 - How do you allow for it?
- Staff needs/requirements?
 - Teaching and/or research?
 - Is there a conflict?
 - Is there a choice?



HEFCE

- “Ensure that **staff** involved in HE provision are appropriately qualified, have opportunities for scholarly activity and are supported by adequate learning resources, in order to ensure a high quality learning experience for the learners. Where the scale of provision is such that the college cannot provide such resources on its own, there will need to be clear arrangements to ensure that the provision is not isolated and that learners have access to such resources from one or more partner institutions.”

http://www.hefce.apubs/hefce/2009/09_13/



So what is Scholarly Activity?

- keeping up to date with the subject
- curriculum development, particularly foundation degrees, often with HEIs
- curriculum development that involves research
- updating ICT skills
- taking higher qualifications – masters, doctorates and teaching qualifications
- consultancy to industry and other agencies
- industrial secondments or work shadowing
- involvement with SSCs
- research and publications
- practitioner/applied research
- personal development – action research and reading
- attending staff development events within the college
- attending conferences and workshops externally.
 - All from HEFCE Good Practice Guide for HE in FE March 2009, Page 166



HEFCE Good Practice Guide for HE in FE

“While there are no generally agreed definitions, there appears to be a consensus about the distinction between scholarly activity as a broad collection of activities and the more narrow focus of research as described in higher education institutions.”

Now available from

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09_05/#exec



So what difference does it make?

- “Engaging” with your subject is an act that has implications for how your students see you
- It impacts on how your partners (HEI and employers) see you.
- It impacts on how well you can deliver your curriculum
- It impacts on how you feel about yourself...



Types of publication

- Pedagogic Research journals
- Subject-focussed Education journals
- Professional Body journals:
education
- Discipline-based Education Conferences:
refereed papers
- Higher Education Research Conferences



Some Education Journals

- Active Learning in Higher Education (ALHE)
- Association for Learning Technology Journal (ALT-J)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education (AEHE)
- European Journal of Education (EJE)
- Higher Education (HE)
- Higher Education in Europe (HEE)
- Higher Education Management (HEM)
- Higher Education Policy (HEP)
- Higher Education Quarterly (HEQ)
- Higher Education Research and Development (HERD)
- Higher Education Review (HER)
- Innovations in Education & Teaching International (IETI)
- International Journal for Academic Development (IJAD)
- International Journal of Technology and Design Education
- Journal of Further and Higher Education (JFHE)
- Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management (JHEPM)
- Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education (P:PPHE)
- Quality in Higher Education (QHE)
- Studies in Higher Education (SHE)
- Teaching in Higher Education (THE)
- Tertiary Education and Management (TEAM)

You probably know of others....



What types of contribution are there?

- Pedagogic research
- Applied and practice-based research/
Action research
- Case studies
- Opinions



Papers

"Traditional" papers should include one or more of the following:

- Original work of a pedagogic research or developmental nature
- Surveys of current or recent work
- Proposed new methods or ideas which are well elaborated and argued



Action Research

- An informal, qualitative, interpretive, reflective and experimental methodology that requires all the participants to be collaborative researchers.
- Action research is carried out by people who usually recognise a problem or limitation in their workplace situation and, together, devise a plan to counteract the problem, implement the plan, observe what happens, reflect on these outcomes, revise the plan, implement it, reflect, revise and so on....



Case Studies

Should be critical reports about work undertaken on an international, national, regional or local basis and are likely to include:

- a background scenario
- a clear statement of the purpose of the work
- relationship to past or current work
- who was involved
- what happened
- what deductions can be made
- a critical review of the work
- the implications of the work reported

The style should make the article easy to read and understand.

Ref: Innovations in Education and Teaching International (IETI)



Opinions

Opinions are shorter, hopefully contentious and are likely to include one or more of:

- Research or development work which is at an early stage (the contribution is signalling that the work is in progress)
- Unsubstantiated personal opinions which will be of interest to the journal's readership
- Articles of a speculative nature
- Proposed new methods of working



And now?

- Would you like to submit a paper?
- Do you have a topic in mind?
- What do you need to get that draft ready for publication?
- Is there anyone who could help to author a paper with you?
- Would you like some support?



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